# PHIL 164 Technology and Human Values

Syllabus                                        Andy Lamey
Spring  2014                               alamey@ucsd.edu
Time Tu-Thu 3:30-4:50          (858) 534-9111 (no voicemail)
Warren Lecture Hall                          Office: HSS 8088
Room 2114                  Office Hours: MW 11:00 am-12:00 pm

## Overview

This class applies philosophical analysis to questions concerning technology. We being with a brief examination of theoretical positions that are either strongly pro- or anti-technology before examining philosophical issues arising from particular forms of technology, including nuclear bombs, military robots, slaughterhouses, the Internet, Bitcoin, fMRI machines and artificial intelligence.

## Assessment

Assessment for the class will consist of:

Two 1,500-word essays, the first due 5:00 pm Monday April 21, the second due 5:00 pm Monday May 19, first worth 20%, second worth 25% of the final mark

An in-class midterm on Thursday May 1 worth 20 percent of the final mark

An exam during finals week worth 25 percent of the final mark

Class attendance and participation each worth 5 percent of the final mark. NB: Students who have more than three unexcused absences will receive an attendance mark of zero.

## Readings and Schedule

All of the required readings will be available on TED.

Week One: Technological Pessimism

> Video: Herbert's Hippopotamus: A Story About Revolution in Paradise (1996), a documentary by Paul Alexander Juutilainen.

Marcuse, Herbert. "The New Forms of Control," *One-Dimensional Man: Studies in the Ideology of Advanced Industrial Society* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1964): 1-18.

Week Two: Technological Optimism

Marx, Karl. "Alienation and Automation," *Karl Marx: The Essential Writings*, Frederick Bender ed. (Boulder: Westview Press, 1986): 431-47.

Fuller, Buckminster. "Human Ecology" and "Vertical is to Live–Horizontal is to Die," *Earth, Inc.* (Garden City, NY: Anchor Press, 1973): 111-113, 115-142.

Week Three: War and Technology

Glover, Jonathan. *Humanity: A Moral History of the Twentieth Century* (London: Pimlico, 2001): 89–112.

Sparrow, Robert. "Killer Robots." *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 24 (2007): 62-77.

Week Four: Slaughterhouse Design

Korsgaard, Christine. "Interacting with Animals: A Kantian Account," in *The Oxford Handbook of Animal Ethics*, Tom Beauchamp and R. G. Frey eds. (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2011): 91-118.

Hursthouse, Rosalind, "Virtue Ethics and the Treatment of Animals," in *The Oxford Handbook of Animal Ethics*, Tom Beauchamp and R. G. Frey eds. (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2011): 119-144.

Grandin, Temple. "Calming effects of deep touch pressure in patients with autistic disorder, college students, and animals." *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology* 2 (1992): 63-72.

Grandin, Temple. "Observations of cattle behavior applied to the design of cattle-handling facilities." *Applied Animal Ethology* 6.1 (1980): 19-31.

Week Five: The Internet I + Midterm

Dreyfus, Hubert. *On the Internet*. (London: Routledge, 2008): 1-48.

**Thursday May 1 In-class closed book midterm**

Week Six: The Internet II

Dreyfus, Hubert. *On the Internet*. (London: Routledge, 2008): 49-88.

Dreyfus, Hubert. *On the Internet*. (London: Routledge, 2008): 89-144.

Week Seven: Bitcoin

Hayek, Friedrich A. "The Denationalization of Money: An analysis of the theory and practice of current currencies: Third Edition," *London: Institute of Economic Affairs* (1990), selections.

Wallace, B. "The Rise and Fall of Bitcoin, *Wired* Magazine, 23 November 2011."

King, Robert G. "On the economics of private money." *Journal of Monetary Economics* 12.1 (1983): 127-158.

Week Eight: fMRI Technology and Morality

Green, Joshua, R. Brian Sommerville, Leigh Nystrom, John Darley, and Jonathan Cohen. "An fMRI Investigation of Emotional Engagement in Moral Judgment," *Science* 293 (2001): 2105–8.

Green, Joshua. "The Secret Joke of Kant's Soul," in *Moral Psychology, Vol. 3: The Neuroscience of Morality: Emotion, Brain Disorders, and Development*, Walter Sinnott-Armstrong ed. (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2008): 35–79.

Berker, Selim, "The normative insignificance of neuroscience." *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 37 (2009): 293-329.

Week Nine: Artificial intelligence I

Turing, Alan, "Computing Machinery and Intelligence," *Mind* 59 (1950): 433–60.

Dreyfus, Hubert L. *What Computers Still Can't Do: A Critique of Artificial Reason*. Cambridge: MIT press, 1992 [1972] (excerpt) (or Kaplan anthology reading)

Week Ten: Artificial Intelligence II

Searle, John R. "Minds, Brains, and Programs." *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 3.03 (1980): 417-424.

Churchland, Paul and Patricia Churchland, "Could a Machine Think?" *Scientific American*, January (1990): 32-7.

Boden, Margaret, "Escaping from the Chinese Room," in *The Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence*, M. A. Boden ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1990.

## General Information

*Office Hours*

I will be keeping both normal and electronic office hours. You are welcome to drop by in person or, if you prefer, contacting me via Skype. Just drop me an email so I know to go on Skype, where my ID is andy_lamey. I am also available by appointment outside my office hours. I am always happy to discuss any aspect of this course with you.

*Email Policy*

I will be happy to reply to emails sent from UCSD email addresses. I do not reply to emails from non-UCSD addresses.

Please note that there are three subjects I do not discuss by email, even if they are sent from a UCSD account. These are:

a) Requests for information about the exam that arrive in the 24-hour period immediately preceding the exam.

b) Requests for the release of exam results by email.

c) Requests to adjust your final class grade. If you have an issue with your grade please make an appointment to discuss it during my office hour next quarter.

*Submission*

Both essays in this class will be submitted electronically. Students are not required to submit a hard copy.

*One-time Discretionary Essay Extension*

I am happy to grant each student one essay extensions of up to 48 hours without requiring a medical certificate or other documentation. In order to grant such an extension I need to receive your request before noon on the day the essay in question is due. Email is fine, but please note that UCSD's email servers sometimes go down, and students are advised not to leave their requests to the last minute. Requests received after noon on the due date will require documentation, as will requests for extensions longer than 48 hours. Please note that if you receive an extension your paper may be returned a few days after those that were completed on time.

Note that each student is entitled to only one discretionary essay extension. So if you receive one for your first essay, any extension for the second essay will require documentation.

*Late Work*

For all assignments of 1,000 words or more handed in after the due date and without an extension, a five percent penalty applies for the first day of the missed deadline. After that, a subsequent penalty of two percent per day will be applied for the next thirteen calendar days after the due date (including Saturdays and Sundays). No assignment can be accepted after more than fourteen calendar days except in exceptional circumstances and in consultation with your instructor. Assignments that are handed in late and without extension will be returned after those completed on time and will not receive comments.

*Feedback*

Feedback on written work may take the form of written comments or oral comments from the instructor in a recorded video.

*Accommodation for Disability*

Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall.  Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. Contact the OSD for further information:

858.534.4382 (phone)    osd@ucsd.edu(email)    http://disabilities.ucsd.edu (web)

*Academic Integrity*

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. More information about UCSD's policy on academic integrity is available at http://senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/appendix2.pdf.

*Lecture Slides*

Lecture slides will be made available on TED.

*Technology in the Classroom*

Until further notice, laptops and tablets are not permitted in class.

*Waitlist*

Students will be admitted to this class according to their place on the waitlist.

*The Exam*

All students except those registered with the OSD are required to take the exam on the day and time scheduled during finals week.